

Program Highlights 2007

Community College Program (CCP)

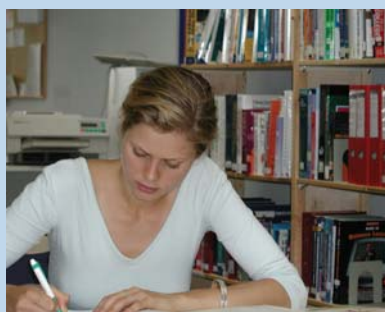
In 2007, Fulbright Advisers established and administered a new Commission initiative called the Community College Program. The advisers established a network of community colleges, screened participants, selected colleges for the students, and placed them. As of September 2007, two of the participants are studying at Tompkins Cortland Community College and at Lincoln College.

Nationwide Outreach

The educational advisers led a series of 10 successful information sessions on undergraduate study in the US at various locations in the Netherlands. The events were extensively advertised among 700 high schools and in the media, and attracted over 300 high school students interested in US study opportunities.

Over \$2m in Financial Aid

The Fulbright Center secured \$1,178,000 in scholarships for Dutch students in 2007-08. Fulbright grantees received \$478,000 and \$700,000 went to undergraduates via the Campus Scholarship Program.



Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ US Embassy and US Consulate
- ▶ Institute of International Education (IIE)
- ▶ American Association of Community Colleges (AAC&C)
- ▶ Cultural Exchange Network (CENET)
- ▶ University of Amsterdam
- ▶ Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

| Country Statistics | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Number of students in the US: | 1,567 | 1,587 |
| Total number of center inquiries: | 3,873 | 3,900 |

Netherlands

Advising Center Network

The Fulbright Commission Advising Center in Amsterdam serves the general public throughout the Netherlands by offering a wide range of services, including individual advising sessions, resource publications, and library access. The advisers place special emphasis on outreach activities and pre-departure orientation services. The Fulbright Center has established itself as the national knowledge and resource center on US higher education in the Netherlands.

Recent Trends: US Study ↑ 1.3%

- ▶ Growing interest among Dutch students to attend Community Colleges due to affordability, simplified admissions process, and greater attention to teaching. In 2007, advisers registered a 60% increase in student interest compared to the previous year.
- ▶ Increasing need for individual and custom made counseling for full degree (undergraduate) Dutch students. Students expect more individualized attention from advisers. Parents are also becoming more involved.
- ▶ Fields of study most inquired: business, social sciences, humanities, law.
- ▶ Common sports for student-athletes: field hockey (w); soccer (m); tennis (m/w); basketball (m); baseball (m).

Resource Links

The Fulbright Center: www.fulbright.nl

Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education: www.nuffic.nl

Education System Overview

| | Secondary Education | Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Language of instruction: | Dutch | Dutch and English |
| Years of study required: | 4 to 6 years | 3 years |
| Grading system & US equivalent: | The most common grading scale in the Netherlands goes from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Teachers in the Netherlands award grades of 9 and 10 very rarely. A grade of 8 is seen as representing a very high level of achievement, while grades 6 and 7 account for most of the passing grades that are awarded | |
| | English term | Dutch Grade |
| | Excellent (10) | 8 |
| | Very Good (9) | 7 |
| | Good (8) | 6 |
| | Highly Satisfactory (7) | |
| | Satisfactory (6) – C | |
| | Sufficient (5) – C | |
| | Fail (1-4) – F | |
| Scholarship for US studies: | Depends on the institution. There is usually some travel budget available for exchange students. | |

Partnering with EducationUSA Netherlands

- ▶ Advisers maintain regular contact with the admission offices of those universities where they have placed Fulbright students.
- ▶ Advisers are planning to attend large-scale international conferences such as NAFSA, OACAC and EAIE, where US representatives will be able to meet with them.
- ▶ US representatives are welcome to visit the Fulbright Center and meet with the EducationUSA advisers. The office is only a 15 minute train ride from Schiphol airport.

Country Contact

Erik VAN DEN BERG, Educational Adviser
The Fulbright Center
E-mail: e.vandenberg@fulbright.nl

Fabienne VAN DEN BOR, Educational Adviser
The Fulbright Center
E-mail: f.vandenbor@fulbright.nl